

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 07690 101012Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /013 W
-----058643 101018Z /20
O 100954Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5573

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 07690

EA ONLY

FOR OAKLEY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, US, RP
SUBJECT: DESIGNATION OF CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

1. SUMMARY: DFA HAS ASKED FOR A CABLE FROM SECSTATE TO ROMULO DESIGNATING TOUSSAINT AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM. WE BELIEVE IT IS DESIRABLE TO COMPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MARCH 8 EMBASSY SENT NOTE VERBALE TO DFA ADVISING OF FORMER CHARGE STULL'S DEPARTURE ON MAY 6 AND THAT TOUSSAINT WILL ACT AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM UNTIL ARRIVAL OF NEW AMBASSADOR.

3. DFA PROTOCOL OFFICER TELEPHONED MARCH 8 ON BEHALF OF DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL AND INDICATED THEY CONSIDERED EMBASSY'S MARCH 8 NOTE TO BE "IRREGULAR." THEY MAINTAIN THAT WHILE DEPARTING AMBASSADOR CAN DESIGNATE CHARGE (AS WAS DONE AT THE TIME OF DEPARTURES OF AMBASSADORS SULLIVAN AND NEWSOM), IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE FOR ONE CHARGE TO DESIGNATE ANOTHER CHARGE OR FOR A CHARGE IN EFFECT TO DESIGNATE HIMSELF. WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE IS A CABLE FROM SECRETARY VANCE TO SECRETARY ROMULO DESIGNATING TOUSSAINT AS CHARGE. OTHERWISE, THEY
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SUGGEST, TOUSSAINT COULD NOT BEAR THE DESIGNATION OF CHARGE AND WOULD BE CONSIDERED ONLY AN "OFFICER IN CHARGE" WHICH MIGHT BE EMBARRASSING TO THE USG.

4. FOREGOING WAS CONVEYED BY DFA IN LOW KEY AND INFORMAL MANNER, BUT MESSAGE WAS CLEAR. WE SOUGHT TO DISSUADE DFA FROM ITS VIEWPOINT, NOTING THAT TOUSSAINT HAD ALREADY PAID

COURTESY CALL ON FONSEC AND THAT IN ANY CASE HIS STEWARDSHIP WAS EXPECTED TO BE SHORT IN DURATION. WE ALSO INDICATED THAT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, SECSTATE DID NOT NORMALLY SEND LETTERS OF DESIGNATION EXCEPT IN CASES OF PERMANENT CHARGES. DFA WAS UNMOVED BY THESE ARGUMENTS AND CONTINUES TO ASK FOR A VANCE-ROMULO CABLE.

5. WE SEE THIS AS YET ONE MORE INSTANCE OF GOP HYPER-SENSITIVITY IN ITS RELATIONS WITH U.S. ON BALANCE WE SEE MORE TO GAIN THAN LOSE AT THIS JUNCTURE BY SENDING SUCH A CABLE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE MIGHT BE SOME BASIS FOR DFA'S CONCERN OVER THE "IRREGULARITY" IN QUESTION. COULD YOU ARRANGE FOR SUCH A CABLE IN SHORT ORDER?

6. NOTE EA ONLY CAPTION. TOUSSAINT

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NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, US, RP, (TOUSSAINT, DONALD R)
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